



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

May 15, 2006

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Conyers:

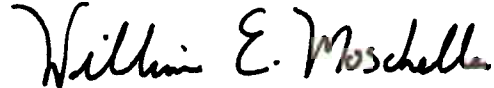
This responds to your letter, dated November 2, 2005, to Attorney General Alberto Gonzales requesting a copy of a Department of Justice document regarding a review of security in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) following the events of September 11, 2001. An identical response is being sent to the two Congressmen who joined in your letter.

Unfortunately, the document that you have requested is designated as Sensitive for Limited Official Use Only and, accordingly, is not appropriate for disclosure in response to your request. We note, however, that the General Accounting Office (GAO) performed a review of security in Guam and the CNMI in 2004-2005, and the GAO received information from the Department of Justice during its review. You may wish to contact the GAO for information regarding this subject.

You also raised concerns regarding the activities of Washington lobbyist Jack Abramoff in connection with the report. As you are aware, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other law enforcement agencies are working with career prosecutors in the Department of Justice on the investigation regarding the activities of Mr. Abramoff. As a result of this on-going investigation, four defendants have been charged to date, including Mr. Abramoff. We assure you that the Department of Justice places a high priority on investigating and prosecuting public corruption offenses. This investigation will be handled fairly, appropriately, and impartially by dedicated career professionals in the Department of Justice, and the Department will take all steps that are necessary to insure public confidence in the fairness of this investigation.

We appreciate your interest in the Department's efforts to protect our national security. Please do not hesitate to contact this Office if you would like additional assistance regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William E. Moschella". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "W" and a stylized "M".

William E. Moschella
Assistant Attorney General

cc: The Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Chairman